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Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Second session
Maastricht, the Netherlands, 3 and 4 July 2014
Item 5 (b) of the provisional agenda
Programme of work and operation of the Protocol: strategic plan for 2015–2020

Draft decision II/2 on the strategic plan for 2015–2020 for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Summary

By its decision I/6, the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers requested the Working Group of the Parties to consider the need for a long-term strategic plan for the Protocol and, if deemed necessary, to take steps to prepare such a plan for possible adoption by the Meeting of the Parties, and to explore potential synergies between such a long-term strategic plan and the strategic plan for the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decision I/6, para. 9).[1] In accordance with that mandate, at its second meeting (Geneva, 20–21 November 2012), the Working Group of the Parties requested the Bureau to prepare a draft decision on a strategic plan for 2015–2020 for the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2012/2, para. 36 (d) (ii)).[2]

At its fourth meeting (Geneva, 21 November 2012), the Bureau decided to circulate the draft decision on the strategic plan to national focal points and stakeholders for

[1] Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mopp1.html.
[2] Available from http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28225

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comments.[3] The Bureau thereafter revised the draft decision in the light of the comments received and finalized the document at its fifth meeting (Madrid, 2–3 July 2013) before submitting it to the Working Group of the Parties.

The draft decision forwarded by the Bureau (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/8) was considered by the Working Group at its third meeting (Geneva, 20–21 November 2013). The Working Group approved the draft decision, as amended at the meeting (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/8/CRP.1), and requested the secretariat to submit it to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session for adoption.

The present document, containing the draft decision on the strategic plan for 2015–2020 for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, has been prepared in accordance with the following approach. The introduction, vision and mission were drafted in the light of the Communication Strategy (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.2) and the preamble of the Protocol. A separate section was introduced to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various actors, namely the Parties, stakeholders and the secretariat. The proposed strategic plan addresses three focal areas respectively: implementation of the Protocol by each Party; lifting barriers to ratification and expansion beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region; and development of the Protocol. To facilitate reading, focal areas, strategic goals, objectives, implementing partners and indicators of progress and targets were merged into one "Framework for Implementation" table.

[3] See the report on the fourth meeting of the Bureau, para. 6, available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr-bureau.html

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling the preamble of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which affirms the wish of the Parties to provide a mechanism contributing to the ability of every person of present and future generations to live in an environment adequate to his or her health and well-being, by ensuring the development of publicly accessible environmental information systems,

Recalling decision I/6 adopted by the Protocol's Meeting of the Parties at its first session (Geneva, 20–22 April 2010), mandating the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol to consider the need for developing a strategic plan and to take steps to prepare a draft for eventual adoption by the Meeting of the Parties,

1. *Adopts* the strategic plan for 2015–2020 set out in the annex to this decision;

2. *Agrees* that the plan will guide the implementation and further development of the Protocol up until the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties.

Annex

Draft strategic plan for 2015–2020

I. Introduction

1. The Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) is the first legally binding international instrument on pollutant release and transfer registers (PRTRs). Adopted in 2003, it entered into force in 2009 and has been ratified by 32 Parties so far. It is open for accession by any United Nations Member State, including those outside the un Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region. The objective of the Protocol on PRTRs is to enhance public access to information through the establishment of coherent, nationwide PRTRs.

2. By establishing publicly accessible national PRTRs and requiring companies to produce annual reports on their releases and transfers of specified pollutants or transfers of waste, the Protocol on PRTRs aims to contribute to the prevention and reduction of pollution of the environment, thereby contributing to sustainable development and the promotion of green economies.

3. According to its mandate from the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol to consider the need for developing a strategic plan, and to take steps to prepare a draft for eventual adoption by the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1, decisions I/6, para. 9), at its first session the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol (Geneva, 28–29 November 2011) considered the challenges faced by many countries in ratifying, acceding to or implementing the Protocol; medium- to long-term new development areas of the Protocol; and opportunities to further cooperate and look for synergies with other organizations and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), since they share similar objectives as regards protection of the environment and access to information.

4. As a result, the Working Group of the Parties decided to develop a strategic plan for the Protocol for 2015–2020 with a view to its submission to the Meeting of the Parties for consideration and adoption at its second session in 2014.

II. Vision and mission

5. Our long-term vision is:[a]

(a) To contribute towards ensuring the right of every person of present and future generations to a healthy community through easy, user-friendly and free publicly accessible information about pollution of the environment by means of PRTRs;

(b) To contribute to the prevention and reduction of pollution of the environment by increasing transparency and encouraging improvements in environmental performance by industrial operators in order to move towards sustainable and environmentally sound development.

[a] See key messages for the Protocol in the Communication Strategy (ECE/MP.PP/2011/2/Add.2) and in the preamble of the Protocol.

6. We see it as our mission:

(a) To work towards full implementation of the Protocol on PRTRs by each Party to the Protocol;

(b) To raise the impact of the Protocol by increasing the number of Parties within the ECE region and by encouraging States outside the region to accede to the Protocol or to apply its principles and provisions;

(c) To keep the principles and provisions of the Protocol under continuous review and, as appropriate, consider further development of the Protocol to ensure that it continues to serve as an adequate instrument to achieve its objectives.

III. Focal areas and goals

7. Focal areas include a set of indicators and targets that will enable the Protocol's Meeting of the Parties and its Working Group of the Parties to assess progress in the implementing the strategic plan.

Focal area I: Implementation of the Protocol by each Party

8. To achieve implementation of the Protocol by each Party, Parties, supported by the Protocol bodies, will implement the following objectives:

(a) Data is collected through integrated and preferably electronic reporting tool(s) and is made available through an electronic database, thereby facilitating the use of this data for multiple purposes and the sharing of information according to shared environmental information system (SEIS) principles to be developed throughout the ECE region;[b]

(b) Calculation methodologies for the preparation of data for PRTR reporting, which could be easily adapted and used in all countries, are collected and widely disseminated;

(c) Improve access to information in the PRTR electronic database(s) through a free, dedicated, user-friendly website with links to other websites and databases on subject matters relating to environmental protection;

(d) Ensure that grounds for confidentiality are applied strictly in accordance with article 12 of the Protocol and that, where applied, they can be justified;

(e) Data is made available using geographical information systems (GIS);

(f) Information on releases from diffuse sources is made available, where possible.

Focal area II: Lifting barriers to ratification and expansion beyond the ECE region

9. In order to lift barriers to ratification of the Protocol and to expand the Protocol's reach beyond the ECE region, Parties, supported by the Protocol bodies, agree it is desirable to work towards implementing the following objectives:

[b] As decided by ministers at the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference (Astana, 21–23 September 2011) (ECE/ASTANA.CONF/2011/2/Add.1, para. 14). The document is available from http://www.unece.org/env/efe/astana/welcome.html

(a) To examine challenges faced by ECE States on their way to ratification through international cooperation, including translation of relevant guidance material;

(b) To promote and facilitate accession by non-ECE States through international cooperation;

(c) To promote synergies with international organizations through, e.g., the International PRTR Coordinating Group;[c]

(d) To promote synergies with ECE and global MEAs.

Focal area III: Development of the Protocol

10. To achieve development of the Protocol, Parties, supported by the Protocol bodies, will endeavour to implement the following objectives:

(a) In line with the Protocol's article 6, paragraph 2, and using experience gained from the development of national PRTRs and the implementation of the Protocol, as well as taking into account relevant international processes, identify areas for possible future improvements in annexes I and II to the Protocol;

(b) Inclusion of specific requirements for releases of pollutants from diffuse sources where and when necessary (art. 7, para. 7);

(c) Considering the inclusion of other aspects, such as information on energy and water consumption, on-site transfers of waste or storage (art. 6, para. 2);

(d) Use of the Protocol on PRTRs as a tool for assessing the development of a green economy in the context of sustainable development.

IV. Roles and responsibilities

11. Parties should play a proactive role in promoting and facilitating the implementation of the strategic plan in their countries and in multilateral processes under the Protocol and, where opportunities arise, the Convention. They should assess and regularly follow up on the plan's implementation at all levels of governance. Parties should include all relevant public authorities at the national, regional and local levels (e.g., those responsible for environment, justice, water, agriculture, transport, industry, health, education and foreign issues). Parties should play an important role in the implementation of the Protocol through the channelling of information, coordinating and/or organizing activities, motivating important target groups and monitoring implementation.

12. Stakeholders — including members of the general public, civil society organizations, experts from the education and scientific sectors, the health sector, industry, transport and agriculture sectors, the private sector, trade and labour unions, the mass media, various national, regional and local communities and international organizations — are encouraged to play an active role by supporting implementation of the strategic plan. Civil society organizations, and in particular those promoting environmental protection, have an important role in implementation in alerting the public to its rights and in supporting Governments to understand and to act upon their obligations under the Protocol. International organizations will be invited to support implementation of the strategic plan.

13. The Protocol secretariat will facilitate the implementation of the strategic plan by servicing the Protocol's bodies, organizing regional and subregional capacity-building activities and undertaking advisory and promotional work.

[c] See http://www.unece.org/env/pp/prtr/intlcgimages/about.html

V. Framework for implementation

Focal area/strategic goal/objective	*Type of activity*	*Possible implementing partners*	*Indicators of progress/targets*
Focal area 1: Implementation of the Protocol by each Party			
Objective 1.1	Development and review of the national framework in consultation with public authorities and stakeholders	Parties and stakeholders	Number/proportion of Parties having integrated and shared electronic reporting tools and data available on electronic databases
	Regional workshops	Secretariat, Parties	
	Facilitation of access to free reporting software	Parties	
	Implementation of SEIS principles	Parties, EEA, secretariat, partner organizations[a]	
	Training, webinars and capacity-building for officials	Parties, secretariat, partner organizations	
Objective 1.2	Updating implementation guidelines	Parties, secretariat	Dedicated part on PRTR.net Number of Parties using these methodologies
	Dedicated area on PRTR.net	Parties, secretariat, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Global Resource Information Database centre in Arendal, Norway (GRID-Arendal)	
	Training, webinars and capacity building for officials	Parties, secretariat, partner organizations	
Objective 1.3	Training, webinars and capacity-building for officials	Parties, secretariat, partner organizations	Number of Parties having databases accessible through the Internet
Objective 1.4	Exchange of information	Parties, secretariat, Meeting of the Parties, Working Group of the Parties, partner organizations	Number of Parties having reported good practices on the subject
	Review of national framework	Parties and stakeholders, Compliance Committee	
Objective 1.5	Training, webinars and capacity-building for officials	Parties, secretariat, partner organizations	Number of Parties using GIS

Focal area/strategic goal/objective	*Type of activity*	*Possible implementing partners*	*Indicators of progress/targets*
Objective I.6	Review of national framework	Parties and stakeholders, Compliance Committee	Number of Parties making information on releases from diffuse sources available
	Training, webinars and capacity-building for officials	Parties, secretariat, partner organizations	
Focal area II: Lifting barriers to ratification and expansion beyond the ECE region			
Objective II.1	Translation of guidance material	Parties, secretariat, partner organizations	Number of additional ratifications since 2014
	Regional workshops	Secretariat, Parties, partner organizations	
	Training, webinars and capacity-building for officials	Parties, secretariat, partner organizations	
Objective II.2	Promotion of the Protocol beyond the ECE region at events and through bilateral and international cooperation	Secretariat, Parties, partner organizations	Number of additional ratifications beyond the ECE region since 2014
Objective II.3	Promotion of the Protocol through, e.g., the International PRTR Coordinating Group	Secretariat, Bureau, Working Group of the Parties, Parties, partner organizations, stakeholders	Effective promotion and identification of potential synergies Number of joint projects implemented
Objective II.4	Promotion of the Protocol through and joint activities with other MEAs	Secretariat, Bureau, Working Group of the Parties, Parties, partner organizations, stakeholders	Effective promotion and identification of potential synergies Number of joint meetings or projects implemented
	Meetings of the Chairs of the ECE MEAs	Secretariat, MEA Chairs	Cooperation with ECE MEAs
Focal area III Development of the Protocol			
Objective III.1	Surveys and studies	Secretariat, Meeting of the Parties, Working Group of the Parties, Parties, stakeholders, partner organizations	Decisions by the Meeting of the Parties

Focal area/strategic goal/objective	*Type of activity*	*Possible implementing partners*	*Indicators of progress/targets*
	Discussions at meetings of the Working Group of the Parties and decisions by the Meeting of the Parties	Parties, secretariat	
Objective III.2	Surveys and studies	Secretariat, Meeting of the Parties, Working Group of the Parties, Parties, stakeholders, partner organizations	Decisions by Meeting of the Parties
	Discussion at the Working Group of the Parties and decisions by the Meeting of the Parties	Parties, secretariat	
Objective III.3	Surveys and studies	Secretariat, Bureau of the Working Group of the Parties, Parties, stakeholders, partner organizations	Decisions by the Meeting of the Parties
	Discussion at the Working Group of the Parties and decisions by the Meeting of the Parties	Parties, secretariat	
Objective III.4	Input to relevant processes under ECE	Parties, secretariat, Bureau, Working Group of the Parties	Input to Committee on Environmental Policy/ "Environment for Europe" process

[a] Wherever reference is made to partner organizations, it is understood that the organizations participating in the International PRTR Coordinating Group and the Aarhus Convention's capacity-building coordination framework, as well as other relevant organizations, are expected to be involved.

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Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Second session
Maastricht, the Netherlands, 3 and 4 July 2014
Item 4 (a) of the provisional agenda
Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Protocol: reporting mechanism

Draft decision II/1 on reporting requirements

Summary

This document contains a draft decision on reporting requirements prepared on the basis of decision I/5 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs) to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters at its first session (Geneva, 20–22 April 2010).

The Bureau of the Parties to the Protocol on PRTRs considered the document at its fifth meeting (Madrid, 2–3 July 2013) and submitted it for further consideration to the Working Group of the Parties. At its third meeting (Geneva, 20–21 November 2013), the Working Group of the Parties approved the draft decision on the reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/9) and mandated the Bureau to finalize paras 1, 4, 6 and 7, in the light of the availability of national implementation reports before the formal deadline, and to submit it for adoption to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.

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The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling article 17, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which states, inter alia, that the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol shall keep under continuous review the implementation and development of the Protocol on the basis of regular reporting by the Parties and, with this purpose in mind, will establish guidelines facilitating reporting by the Parties, taking into account the experience gained under the Convention,

Also recalling decision I/5 of the first session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, through which the Parties established a reporting mechanism to monitor the progress in implementation of the provisions of the Protocol,

Recognizing that regular reporting by Parties provides important contextual information which facilitates the assessment of compliance under the Protocol and thereby contributes to the work of the Compliance Committee,

Believing that public involvement in the process of reporting is likely to improve the quality and accuracy of reports and to strengthen the credibility of the reporting process,

Taking into account the objective of a simple, concise and not excessively burdensome reporting mechanism,

Noting that this decision concerns reporting by Parties on how they have implemented the requirements of the Protocol and is distinct from the reporting required under article 7 of the Protocol,

Considering that the reporting procedure as set out in decision I/5 should continue to apply for the next reporting cycle,

Emphasizing the importance of timely submission of reports,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the implementation reports submitted by more than three quarters of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters pursuant to decision I/5;

2. *Welcomes* the synthesis report prepared by the Bureau and the Compliance Committee;

3. *Considers* that these reports provide a valuable overview of the status of implementation of the Protocol, as well as significant trends and challenges, which will help to guide future activities;

Timely submission of reports

4. *Notes* that some Parties that submitted reports did not do so within the deadline indicated in decision I/5;

5. *Reiterates its encouragement* of Parties to start the preparation of national implementation reports in future reporting cycles sufficiently in advance of, and at the latest seven months before, the deadline for submission of the reports to the secretariat set out in decision I/5, with a view of ensuring meaningful public consultation on the reports at the national level;

Failure to submit reports

6. *Notes with regret* that Albania, Cyprus, the European Union, Finland, Latvia, Norway, Portugal and Slovenia, all of which were Parties to the Convention at the time of the deadline for submission of the implementation reports, failed to submit reports;

7. *Calls upon* those Parties that have not yet submitted their national implementation reports to submit them to the secretariat by 1 October 2014, for subsequent consideration, inter alia, by the Compliance Committee;

Public Consultation

8. *Welcomes* the fact that most Parties prepared their reports through a process involving consultations with various governmental agencies as well as civil society;

9. *Requests* each Party to prepare its reports on implementation of the Protocol through a transparent and consultative process involving the public in a timely manner, taking account of specific circumstances pertaining to regional economic integration organizations;

Guidance on reporting requirements

10. *Also requests* each Party to submit to the secretariat, in advance of each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties so as to arrive no later than five months before the session of the Meeting of the Parties for which it is submitted, a report on:

(a) The necessary legislative, regulatory or other measures that it has taken to implement the provisions of the Protocol;

(b) The practical implementation of these measures at the national or, in the case of regional integration organizations, the regional level, using the format set out in the annex to decision I/5;

11. *Further requests* each Party in advance of each subsequent ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties to review its report and to prepare and submit to the secretariat new information and, where available, a consolidated national implementation report;

12. *Encourages* Parties, Signatories and other States to submit implementation reports through the electronic reporting application developed by the secretariat, and in accordance with the instructions provided by the secretariat.

13. *Requests* Parties, in addition to online reporting, to submit signed hard copies of the reports to the secretariat by post;

14. *Requests* the secretariat to circulate to all Parties and relevant stakeholders a formal reminder of the reporting requirements, including guidance on the preparation of the reports as well as the proposed timing and confirmation of the date for the submission of the reports, to the secretariat in accordance with decision I/5, at least one year in advance of the next session of the Meeting of the Parties;

15. *Invites* Signatories and other States not Party to the Protocol, pending their ratification or accession, to submit reports on measures taken to apply the Protocol in accordance with the aforementioned procedures;

16. *Invites* international, regional and non-governmental organizations engaged in programmes or activities providing support to Parties and/or other States in the implementation of the Protocol to provide the secretariat with reports on their programmes or activities and lessons learned, as well as on implementation of the Protocol itself;

17. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report for each ordinary session of the Meeting of the Parties summarizing the national implementation reports submitted by the Parties and identifying significant trends, challenges and solutions, and to circulate it to the Parties and other stakeholders in due time for its consideration by the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

Translation of the reports

18. *Decides* to discontinue the decision to process the reports as official documents in the three official languages of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), and requests the secretariat to make the reports available in the languages in which they are submitted, and to make the synthesis report available in the three ECE official languages;

19. *Encourages* Parties that are in a position to do so to provide voluntary translations of the reports in the other two ECE languages. Those Parties that do so are invited to provide the translations preferably not later than one month after the original submission deadline;

20. *Requests* the secretariat to make any unofficial translations of the reports available online.

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Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda
Programme of work and operation of the Protocol: work programme for 2015-2017

Draft decision II/3 on the work programme for 2015–2017 for the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers

Summary

The present document was prepared by the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, with the assistance of the secretariat, pursuant to decision I/6 of the Meeting of the Parties (see ECE/MP.PRTR/2010/2/Add.1).[1] The document omits items from the current work programme that are no longer relevant and includes new items for the period 2015–2017. It was prepared on the basis of the draft proposal on elements of the work programme (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2012/6)[2] considered by the Working Group of the Parties at its second meeting (Geneva, 20–21 November 2012). In addition, the estimated cost requirements have been included.

The Bureau of the Parties to the Protocol considered the document at its fifth meeting (Madrid, 2–3 July 2013) and submitted it to the Working Group of the Parties for consideration. The Working Group approved the draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017 for the Protocol (ECE/MP.PRTR/WG.1/2013/10) at its third meeting (Geneva, 20–21 November 2013) and agreed to submit it for adoption to the Meeting of the Parties at its second session.

[1] Available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/mopp1.html.
[2] Available from http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=28225.

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The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling article 17, paragraph 2, of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, which requires Parties to keep under continuous review the implementation and development of the Protocol, and with this purpose in mind, inter alia, to establish a programme of work,

Recalling its decision I/6 on procedures for the preparation, adoption and monitoring of work programmes and on the work programme for 2011–2014,

Taking into account the strategic plan for 2015–2020 of the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers adopted through decision II/2 and the scheme of financial arrangements adopted through decision II/4,

1. *Adopts* the work programme for 2015–2017, containing the estimated costs of each activity, as set out in the annex to this decision;

2. *Agrees* upon the indicative allocation of resources and the resulting estimated costs set out in the annex, subject to annual review and, as appropriate, revision by the Working Group of the Parties on the basis of annual reports provided by the secretariat pursuant to decision II/4 on financial arrangements;

3. *Encourages* Parties to endeavour to ensure that the funding of the activities of the work programme remains stable throughout the period 2015–2017;

4. *Also encourages* Parties, insofar as possible, and subject to the internal budgetary procedures of the Parties, to contribute to the Protocol's trust fund for a given calendar year by 1 October of the preceding year, so as to secure staff costs for the smooth functioning of the secretariat, as a priority, and the timely and effective implementation of the priority activities of the work programme for 2015–2017;

5. *Requests* the Bureau and the Working Group to keep under review the activities of the work programme for the period 2015–2017, and to report and make appropriate recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties at its third ordinary session;

6. *Calls upon* the Parties and invites Signatories, other States and relevant intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the activities contained in the work programme;

7. *Requests* the secretariat, taking into consideration the results of the implementation of the work programme for 2015–2017, to prepare a draft work programme for the intersessional period following the third session of the Meeting of the Parties, including a detailed breakdown of estimated costs, for consideration and further elaboration by the Bureau and the Working Group of the Parties, at the latest three months before the third session of the Meeting of the Parties, with a view to possible adoption at that meeting.

Annex

Draft work programme for 2015–2017

Activity	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Approximate time frame*	*Estimated costs in United States dollars per year (average)*		
					Item	*Core requirements*	*Additional requirements*
A. Compliance mechanism	Monitor and facilitate compliance with the Protocol	Compliance Committee	Compliance Committee to meet to review submissions, communications, etc., prepare decisions and reports and undertake fact-finding missions; secretariat to publicize the mechanism, develop a database of cases and service the Committee	Ongoing	Committee meetings (travel + DSA)	30 000	
					Expert missions	20 000	
					Subcontracts (e.g., translations, management of electronic databases, website maintenance and improvement)	10 000	
B. Technical assistance	Assist countries in the effective implementation of the Protocol	Secretariat in close cooperation with partner organizations (e.g. UNEP, UNITAR, OSCE, the Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe, GRID-Arendal, European ECO Forum) in the Framework Programme on PRTR Capacity-building[a]	Specific projects in countries needing assistance; training workshops, guidance materials and technical assistance, mostly separately funded; questionnaires, analysis of results	Ongoing	Meetings, (travel + DSA for eligible participants)		30 000
					Subcontracts (e.g., preparation of guidance material, research, analytical studies)		10 000
					Expert missions		10 000

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Activity	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Approximate time frame*	*Estimated costs in United States dollars per year (average)*		
					Item	*Core requirements*	*Additional requirements*
C. Information exchange on a technical level	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Protocol	Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol	Meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol; ad hoc expert meetings and missions; use of electronic tools including the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy, PRTR capacity-building database and prtr.net, PRTR:Learn website, PRTR capacity-building activities database	Ongoing	Ad hoc expert meetings (travel + DSA for eligible participants)		30 000
					Subcontracts (e.g., maintenance and improvement of PRTR-related databases and other electronic tools)	20 000	
					Expert missions		10 000
D. Reporting mechanism	Monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Protocol; facilitate reporting, review of compliance and experience	Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol	Meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol; exchange on a technical level of information on the application of electronic information tools; use of the online implementation database in the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy, the PRTR:Learn website, the PRTR capacity-building activities database and e-reporting	Ongoing	Subcontracts (e.g., preparation of background material; maintenance and development of online applications for reporting)	20 000	

Activity	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Approximate time frame*	*Estimated costs in United States dollars per year (average)*		
					Item	*Core requirements*	*Additional requirements*
E. Awareness–raising and promotion of the Protocol and its interlinkages with other treaties and processes	Further the knowledge of the Protocol throughout the ECE region and beyond, increase the number of Parties to the Protocol; further the application of the Protocol in the context of other MEAs and related processes (SAICM/ICCM)	Secretariat in cooperation with all other partners	Participate in key regional and international events and processes; provide support to workshops organized by others; prepare leaflets, publications, news bulletins and other materials; update website; write and review articles on the Protocol	Ongoing	Participation in relevant events where funding is not provided for by the organizers (travel + DSA)	10 000	10 000
					Subcontracts (e.g., organization of outreach campaigns)		10 000
F. Coordination and oversight of intersessional activities, organization of the third session of the Meeting of the Parties	Coordination and oversight of the activities under the Protocol, i.e., through the implementation of this programme of work	Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol and the Bureau of the Meeting of the Parties	Meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol; meetings of the Bureau as necessary; consultations among Bureau members using e-mail, session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol	Ongoing	Expert and secretariat travel and DSA, subcontracts (e.g., translations, promotional material, preparatory background material, reports and studies, media coverage of events)	105 000	
G. Technical assessment of provisions of the Protocol	Drafting of recommendations to the Meeting of the Parties on technical issues, based on the assessment and implementation reports	Secretariat; Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol	Meetings of the Working Group of the Parties to the Protocol, electronic consultation; drafting of assessment report(s) on experience gained in the development of national PRTRs according to article 6, paragraph 2, as appropriate, of the Protocol, and implementation reports	Ongoing	Subcontracts (draft recommendations on technical issues)	10 000	

Activity	*Objective and expected outcome*	*Lead country, body or organization*	*Method of work*	*Approximate time frame*	*Item*	*Estimated costs in United States dollars per year (average)*	
						Core requirements	*Additional requirements*
H. Horizontal support areas	Overall support that covers multiple substantive areas of the work programme	Secretariat	Secretarial support, staff training, equipment	Ongoing	Staff training	2 000	
Subtotal (activities)						**227 000**	**110 000**
Staff requirements:							
One P-3[b] full time						180 000	
One G-5[c]						38 900	
Subtotal (staff requirements)						**218 900**	
Programme Support Costs (13%)						57 967	14 300
Total						**503 867**	**124 300**

Abbreviations: DSA = daily subsistence allowance; ECE = United Nations Economic Commission for Europe; ICCM = International Conference on Chemicals Management; MEAs = multilateral environmental agreements; OSCE = Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; PRTR = pollutant release and transfer register; SAICM = Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management; UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme; UNITAR = United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

[a] See http://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/treaties/public-participation/protocol-on-prtrs/areas-of-work/envppprtrcb/framework-programme-on-prtr-capacity-building.html.

[b] One P-3 Environmental Affairs Officer servicing all activities under the Protocol on PRTRs. If no provision is made under the United Nations regular budget for this post, it will require extrabudgetary funding. Where extrabudgetary contributions are insufficient to cover this post full time, the associated costs will be paid for from the contributions for the activities under the Convention (e.g., electronic information tools).

[c] During the last quarter of the year preceding the third session of the Meeting of the Parties (2017), an additional programme assistant could be hired for 10 months to provide horizontal administrative support, including for the Working Group of the Parties, the Meeting of the Parties, the Bureau, the Compliance Committee and national reporting.